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MONDAY, JUNE 14TH, 1852.

THOMAS ROMNEY ROBINSON, D. D., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

LUNDY E. FOOT, Esq., was elected a Member of the Academy.

On the recommendation of the Council, it was Resolved:—

That the sum of £50 be placed at the disposal of the Committee of Antiquities for the purchase of articles for the Museum.

The Se[illegible]ited a pass, dated 29th August, 1687, granted by King James II. to "The Betty of Dublin," William Patrick, master, to allow the said ship to make one voyage from Dublin to Lisbon. Attached to this document were the signatures of the King and Pepys.

Sir William Betham presented a drawing of an ancient canoe found in the river Brosna, under the temporary bridge at Firbane; on the 2nd of May, 1851; also, an impression of a wooden seal found at Wigan, and bearing the inscription,

+ SIG: OSWALDI DE BOLTVNE.

Dr. Apjohn made some remarks upon the chemical composition and optical characters of a rare mineral called Pennine, presented to the Museum of Trinity College by Professor Jellett, and brought by him from the Valley of St. Nicholas, in Switzerland.

This mineral, having been for some time considered as a new one, was submitted to analysis in the Laboratory of Trinity College, and with the following results:—

Silex,	33.64
Alumina,	10.64
Protoxide of iron,	8.83
Magnesia,	34.95
Water,	12.40
Oxide of chrome,	a trace.
	100.46

This analysis was twice repeated by Mr. Alex. MacDonnell, who obtained numbers almost identical with those above given, and which it is, therefore, unnecessary to adduce. These numbers, it may be easily shown, correspond very exactly with the empirical formula,—

$$Si\ O_3 + 3\ Al_2\ O_3 + 29\ R\ O + 21\ H\ O;$$

and the atoms may be so arranged as to give the rational formula,—

$$3\ (Al_2\ O_3,\ Si\ O_3) + 8\ (3\ R\ O,\ Si\ O_3,\ 2\ H\ O) + 5\ (R\ O,\ H\ O).$$

Pennine, it was subsequently found, had been previously twice analyzed, first by Schweitzer, whose results do not differ very widely from those just given, and afterwards by Marignac and Descloiseaux, who are generally considered to have accurately fixed its constitution. They give the following as its empirical formula, viz. :—

$$5\ Si\ O_3 + 2\ Al_2\ O_3 + 12\ R\ O + 10\ H\ O,$$

which, as is obvious, is utterly irreconcileable with the analysis just brought under the notice of the Academy. As respects the cause of these discrepancies, the conjecture may be hazarded, that they are due to the presence of intermixed portions of other minerals. The specimens, for example, of Pennine, brought to Dublin by Professor Jellett, are (some of them) intersected by threads of talc, and incrusted with minute grossular garnets in perfect dodecahedral crystals.

The crystalline system of Pennine is usually set down as the *third*, the most common crystal being an acute rhombohedron, whose apices are deeply truncated. The specimen,

however, of this mineral received from Professor Jellett occurring in six-sided prisms, which appeared to have the property of depolarizing a ray of light transmitted along the prismatic axis, it was inferred that they were biaxal, and, therefore, belonged to the right prismatic system. This opinion, however, had to be abandoned, as the double system of rings characteristic of biaxal crystals could not be developed, so that the depolarizing power of these crystals in the direction of the optic axis must be attributed to laminar polarization, or to the same cause which is known to communicate double refractive properties to analcime and certain other crystals in the regular system.

Dr. Petrie exhibited some Irish antiquities lately obtained by Mr. Kelly, of Armagh.

Dr. Apjohn exhibited a portion of bell-wire melted by lightning on the 3rd of June last, in the house of Richard Pennefather Lloyd, Esq., 19, Herbert-place.

The lightning struck the chimney of the adjacent house, No. 18, where it dislocated the bricks immediately under one of the chimney pots. From this it passed to the gutter running between the back and front roofs of Mr. Lloyd's house, and entered the attic story by a spark, between a holdfast supporting the gutter and the bell-wire within, making a small perforation in the wall. At this point the wire was fused, and in two other places, namely, at the level of the bed-rooms underneath, and in the vicinity of the drawing-room door. Its further progress could not be traced, and the only visible effects of its traject were the destruction of the bell-wire and an irregular blackening of the wall at the points at which the fusion took place, a result which was probably due to the charring of the paint by the heat of the spark which must have occurred wherever the continuity of the conductor along which the lightning was passing was destroyed. No